

# Master's Touch spread gospel word

**By Lynn Coster**  
**STOUFFVILLE**  
The Master's Touch Quartet are certainly "masters" in their field. Ron Robbins, Grade seven teacher at Orchard Park Public School is a member of this foursome. The others in the group include — Bruce Steckley of Gormley, Laurie Hadden from Markham and Walt Jariga of Oshawa.

Ron sings tenor; Bruce is baritone; Walt sings base and Laurie has the lead. Together, with a beautiful blend of their voices they make for pleasant sounding gospel songs.

The group has been around several years with Laurie and Bruce being two of the originals. When they lost their tenor and bass, Ron and Walt

stepped in as able replacements. Laurie and Bruce sang in different groups for 10 to 13 years before joining Master's Touch. Walt has also had previous experience singing with two other

gospel quartets. Ron has had instrumental training but his only vocal experience was acquired in choir.

The Master's Touch Quartet is continually in demand. Last year out of 52 weeks they had 45

bookings. They usually perform within a 150 to 200 mile radius. Ron added they are usually booked six or seven months in advance.

Their voices can often be heard in the Toronto area — Hamilton and

around Stouffville. However, they have performed at Ottawa and in Pennsylvania.

They earn their bookings mostly from word-of-mouth and from people who have seen them perform. Ron said

when they taped a show in Wingham for the CBC they had many offers from viewers who watched the program.

Among the quartet's other accomplishments is an appearance on "100 Huntley Street" aired on

Global T.V. Their itinerary consists of performances for churches which they do free of charge. At other concerts they request a nominal fee. July is the only month they have free to relax. In

August, they're back together again practising for the upcoming schedule. Many groups of this type average three performances a week which becomes a full time job. But the Master's Touch consider their

singing purely a hobby and one they thoroughly enjoyed.

This past-time does not interfere with the singers' full-time positions since most performances are in the

evenings. "But we try not to get too involved with other activities since we all want some time with our families," Ron said. The local contact for the Master's Touch Quartet is Ron Robbins at 640-5580.

## Law offends Chief

**YORK REGION**  
York Regional Police Chief Bruce Crawford wants a national referendum on capital punishment.

Answering questions on a radio talk show, Chief Crawford said polls have indicated 80 per cent want this form of penalty returned. And so does he.

"It's a matter that offends me personally. I've always been taught that in a democracy, the will of the majority applies. But it doesn't seem to apply in this case because the government doesn't wish to pose the question to the people of Canada," he stated firmly.

Chief Crawford feels the death penalty should apply to all cases of premeditated murder, not just the killing of policemen and prison guards. "Your life is as good as mine," he told one caller.

Several expressed concern over the increasing numbers of young people turning to crime. Some suggested they'd been influenced by the media's glorification of violence.

The Chief said parents can only go so far when it comes to protecting their sons and daughters. "They can't build cocoons around their children," he said. He pointed out, however, that respect, one for the other, should be impressed on young people by mothers and fathers. "I feel that would go a long way to eliminating much of the disrespect and arrogance in the world today," he concluded.

## Assault charge

**MARKHAM**  
Michael Walsh stands six feet, three inches tall and weighs 275 pounds.

His wife is four feet, six inches tall and tips the scales at 120 pounds.

Walsh was charged with assault following the m-s-match and the fact the accused had fourteen previous convictions, resulted in a three-month jail sentence handed out by Judge F.D. White in Newmarket Court.

Judge White likened the physical abuse exercised by a person of such size as comparable to use of a weapon. "You and others like you must be deterred," he said.

Solicitor for the accused said his client had been drinking at the time.

## Two-car collision

**GORMLEY** — A 23 year old Gormley area man has been charged with careless driving following a two-car accident. March 29 on Woodbine Avenue, north of here. Thomas Jackson, RR 1, Gormley, was northbound around 7 a.m. when his 1978 Pontiac collided with a 1973 Plymouth driven by Robert Cook, 38, of Aurora. Cook received facial lacerations. Property damage was estimated at \$8,000.

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